

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3059

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: NPT REVCON: YUGOSLAV ACTION AT CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 4081

1. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL WE HAVE HAD TWO RECENT OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS NPT AND GENERAL SUBJECT OF DISARMAMENT WITH CHIEF OF IO POLITICAL GROUP IN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT (VUKOVIC) IN CONNECTION WITH APPROACHES ON US PRESENTATION IN CCD (BELGRADE 2843). HIS COMMENTS MAY OFFERS OME ADDITIONAL INSIGHT INTO REASONS FOR EXTREME POSITION YUGOSLAVS TOOK AT REVCON.

2. THE YUGOSLAVS OBVIOUSLY FEEL STRONGLY THAT A LIMITATION ON THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, AS AN INITIAL STEP TOWARD TOTAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, MUST PRECEDE THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL OF GENERAL AND TOTAL DISARMAMENT. THEY MAKE FREQUENT USE OF "WE" (NNWS) AND "THEY" (NWS) TO EXPRESS ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP OF GROUPS AND INTERESTS WITHIN NPT AND DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS. AS THE YUGOSLAVS SEE IT "THEY" ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL THREAT TO PEACE. NWS CONTINUE VERTICAL PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN VIOLATION OF OBLIGATIONS NWS SIGNATORIES UNDERTOOK UNDER NPT.

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THE YUGOSLAVS NOTE THAT THE US AND OTHER NWS SIGNATORIES REFUSE

TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD REFRAIN FROM USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN CASE OF AN OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES WITH NNWS SIGNATORIES TO NPT, WHO HAVE RENOUNCED "SOVEREIGN RIGHT" TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS LEAVES YUGOSLAVS FEELING FRUSTRATED AT BEING EXPOSED AND DEFENSELESS WITHOUT EITHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR FIRM GUARANTEES FROM NWS.

3. WHEN WE PROBED ABOUT ANY SPECIFIC SECURITY CONCERNS WHICH MAY HAVE MOTIVATED YUGOSLAV STANCE AT NPT, VUKOVIC WOULD ONLY SAY THAT YUGOSLAVS REGARD TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A PARTICULAR THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY BUT AVOIDED DISCUSSING WHERE THREAT MIGHT BE COMING FROM. HE DID REFER TO RECENT US STATEMENTS ON AVAILABILITY OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN CASE OF OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN EUROPE, AS EVIDENCE THAT YUGOSLAV CONCERNS ARE REAL.

4. AS TO WHAT YUGOSLAVS NOW HAVE IN MIND AFTER FAILING TO GET THEIR WAY AT REVCON, VUKOVIC SAID THEY REALIZE THE POLICIES OF NWS LIMIT POSSIBILITY OF YUGOSLAVS ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY THROUGH NPT, BUT HE WOULD NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ABOUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF POLICY CHANGES.

5. COMMENT: IT IS COMMON FOR YUGOSLAVS HERE TO CLOTHE POLICIES IN PRINCIPLES BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO PRACTICAL MATTERS. WE HAVE NOTED ALSO THAT YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS ARE MORE FORTHCOMING ABROAD THAN IN BELGRADE. THUS, WE WERE NOT SURPRISED THAT VUKOVIC DWELT ON GENERAL DISARMAMENT AS LONG-RANGE YUGOSLAV GOAL, NOR THAT HE WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN MORE SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF PROBABLE YUGOSLAV CONCERN OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS. HOWEVER, HIS REMARKS COMPLEMENT AND ADD INSIGHT TO YUGOSLAV CONCERN CONVEYED TO UK DELEGATION (PARA 4 REFTEL), WHICH WE FIND LOGICAL AND CREDIBLE EXPLANATION FOR YUGOSLAV ACTIONS.
SILBERMAN

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